

GLENVILLE MEDICAL
Concierge Care

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Re: IN SUPPORT OF HB 6025 "An Act Allowing Medical Assistants to Administer Medication Under Supervision"

Dear Senators Gerratana and Somers, Representative Steinberg, and Members of the Public Health Committee:

As a Primary Care physician working in a small group practice, it is becoming more and more difficult to practice efficiently. Please keep in mind that my medical office is a perfect example of a Connecticut Small Business. We employ many non-physicians, all of whom support their families, just like any other small business. As you may be aware, physicians are struggling with many onerous regulations concerning documentation and use of electronic medical records from both state and federal governments. Physicians and medical offices are also subject to an increasing amount of un- and under-reimbursed care as a result of insurer policies forced onto physicians so that insurers can remain highly profitable corporations for the benefit of their shareholders and executives. This has led to more and more of my time being spent on absurd administrative tasks and less and less of my time being spent face to face with patients. Even slightly reducing the time that a physician needs to spend doing simple tasks that could otherwise be delegated to an appropriately trained staff member would be greatly valued.

Due to current Connecticut regulations, Medical Assistants working in my office may not administer vaccinations or medication to our patients. This is despite the fact that they receive training in vaccine and medication administration as part of their education. In all but one state in our country, state law permits medical assistants to administer medications. Administering a vaccine or medication is not a very complicated task. In fact, medical assistants routinely perform phlebotomy, which is much more difficult and prone to adverse effects. Any objections from nurses stating that only they are qualified to administer vaccines and medications safely are simply unfounded. In fact, I would imagine that most nurses who have gone on to become APRNs practicing independently in the state of Connecticut would gladly delegate the task of vaccine and medication administration to medical assistants in order to utilize their time more efficiently. Physicians generally do not perform phlebotomy themselves and have appropriately delegated this mundane and time-consuming task to medical assistants. We ask that the same logic be applied to the even less risky and simple tasks of vaccine and medication administration.

Every second that we waste going to the refrigerator or cabinet, drawing up the vaccine or medication, documenting the lot number and expiration date, and actually administering the vaccine or medication, is a second that we are not spending with our patients.

It is clear to me that certified medical assistants, working under the supervision of a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant should logically be able to administer vaccinations and medication. Without this bill becoming law, I fear that our small business will move closer and closer to non-existence; we will be just another small business consumed by the larger forces surrounding us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey Puglisi, MD

Your commitment to wellness doesn't happen by chance...it happens by choice.